

**What is claimed is:**

**1.** A managed node comprising:

a first database having metadata descriptive of data stored in a second database;

a first process in communication with said second database; and

a second process in communication with said first process through a selected interface, said second process providing communication over a network through a selected protocol and having access to said metadata in said first database for translation between said selected interface and said selected protocol.

**2.** The managed node of claim **1**, wherein said first process comprises an SNMP agent.

**3.** The managed node of claim **1**, wherein said second process comprises a network shim layer providing an interface between said first process and said network.

**4.** The managed node of claim **3**, wherein said said selected protocol for communication on said network comprises COPS-PR.

**5.** The managed node of claim **1**, wherein said second database comprises a MIB.

**6.** The managed node of claim **5**, wherein said selected

interface comprises an application program interface of said SNMP agent.

7. The managed node of claim 5, wherein said second protocol comprises a COPS protocol.
8. The managed node of claim 1, wherein said metadata is obtained from a remote source.
9. A managed network comprising:
  - a management station; and
  - a managed node in communication with said management station using a selected protocol, said managed node including
    - a first database having metadata descriptive of data stored in a second database;
    - a first process in communication with a second process through a selected interface, said second process being in communication with said second database, said first process providing communication to said management station through said selected protocol and having access to said first database for translation between said selected protocol and said selected interface.
10. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said selected protocol for communication between said managed node and

said management station comprises COPS-PR.

11. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said selected interface for communication between said first and second processes comprises an application program interface communication.
12. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said first process comprises an SNMP agent.
13. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said second process comprises a network shim layer providing an interface between said first process and a network.
14. The managed network of claim 13, wherein said selected protocol for communication between said network shim layer and said management station comprises COPS-PR.
15. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said second database comprises a MIB.
16. The managed network of claim 15, wherein said selected interface comprises an application program interface of said SNMP agent first.
17. The managed network of claim 15, wherein said protocol comprises a COPS protocol.
18. The managed network of claim 9, wherein said metadata is obtained from a remote source.

**19.** A method comprising:

receiving a first communication;

obtaining metadata from a first database to  
identify selected data in a second database,  
said selected data being dependent on said first  
communication;

on the basis of said metadata, translating said  
first communication into a second communication;  
and

relaying said second communication.

**20.** The method of claim **19**, wherein

receiving a first communication comprises  
receiving a COPS-PR communication, and

relaying said second communication comprises  
relaying said second communication to an SNMP  
agent.

**21.** The method of claim **19**, wherein

receiving a first communication comprises  
receiving a first communication from an SNMP  
agent, and

relaying said second communication comprises  
relaying said second communication to a  
management station.

22. The method of claim **19**, wherein translating said first communication comprises accessing selected data from a MIB.
23. The method of claim **22**, wherein accessing selected data comprises selecting said data on the basis of metadata from said first database.
24. A computer-readable medium having software encoded thereon, said software comprising instructions for:
- receiving a first communication;
  - obtaining metadata from a first database to identify selected data in a second database, said selected data being dependent on said first communication;
  - on the basis of said metadata, translating said first communication into a second communication;
  - and
  - relaying said second communication.
25. The computer-readable medium of claim **24**, wherein
- said instructions for receiving a first communication comprise instructions for receiving a COPS-PR communication, and
  - said instructions for relaying said second communication comprise instructions for relaying said second communication to an SNMP agent.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim **24**, wherein

said instructions for receiving a first communication comprise instructions for receiving a first communication from an SNMP agent, and

said instructions for relaying said second communication comprise instructions for relaying said second communication to a management station.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim **24**, wherein said instructions for translating said first communication comprise instructions for accessing selected data from a MIB.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim **27**, wherein said instructions for accessing selected data comprise instructions for selecting said data on the basis of metadata from said first database.

29. An apparatus comprising:

in a managed network node,

stored descriptive information that describes other, network management information stored in said managed network node, and

stored instructions that use said stored descriptive information to aid a network management station in accessing said network

management information.

30. The apparatus of claim **29**, wherein said stored instructions are configured to communicate with said network management station using a COPS protocol and to access said network management information using an application program interface SNMP.

31. A method comprising:

enabling communication of network management information between a first process and a remote network management facility in accordance with a communication protocol, and

enabling communication of said network management information between said first process and a local network management facility in accordance with an interface second.

32. The method of claim **31**, further comprising:

selecting said first communication protocol to be a COPS protocol; and

selecting said interface to be an application program interface of an SNMP agent. second communication protocol to be SNMP.

33. A process comprising instructions for:

enabling communication of network management information between a first process and a remote

network management facility in accordance with a communication protocol, and

enabling communication of said network management information between said first process and a local network management facility in accordance an interface.

**34.** The process of claim **33**, further comprising

instructions for communicating with said remote network management facility using a COPS protocol; and

instructions for communicating with said local network management facility using an application program interface of an SNMP agent SNMP.

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